



Procarbazine (Matulane®)

At the Clinical Center referred to as Procarbazine (pro-KAR-ba-zeen).

How Given: Orally (by mouth)

Drug Action: Procarbazine stops the growth of cancer cells by binding together or breaking apart the building blocks that form DNA. DNA is the genetic material in cells used to make new cells.

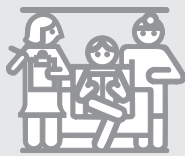
Side Effects:

1. Nausea can occur 1 to 3 days after beginning procarbazine and usually decreases within a week. Severe nausea and vomiting will occur if you drink alcoholic beverages while taking procarbazine.
2. Decrease in appetite can occur 1 to 3 days after beginning Procarbazine and can continue until procarbazine is finished.
3. Bone marrow effects may include a temporary decrease in white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells. These usually begin in 2 weeks and last up to 6 weeks.
4. Drowsiness, weakness, and fatigue can occur within 1 week of beginning procarbazine.
5. Mood changes, nightmares, and sleeplessness can occur.
6. Skin rashes and itching frequently occur. These will go away when procarbazine is stopped.

Special Instructions:

1. Procarbazine should be taken exactly as ordered. If you are having nausea, ask your NIH doctor about taking procarbazine in divided doses. If you are unable to sleep, change the time of day you take procarbazine.

2. Procarbazine can cause dangerous reactions when taken with certain foods, alcoholic beverages, and medications. Foods and beverages to avoid are listed on the following page.
3. Do not take any prescription or over-the-counter medications without talking to your NIH doctor. These include vitamins; herbal treatments; nose drops; and cold, flu, fever, headache, pain, hay fever, or allergy medications.
4. Do not drive a car, operate machinery, or perform any activities that require mental alertness until you know your reaction to this drug.
5. Call your NIH doctor or nurse if you
 - are unable to take your procarbazine
 - have severe headache, chest pain, fast heartbeat, stiff neck, facial flushing, sweating, or abdominal pain
 - have a temperature of 101.0 °F (38.3 °C) at any time, or have a temperature of at least 100.4 °F (38.3 °C) that lasts 1 hour or occurs two times in a 24-hour period
 - have any unusual bleeding or bruising
 - have daytime sleepiness that makes it difficult to do your usual activities



This information is prepared specifically for patients participating in clinical research at the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health and is not necessarily applicable to individuals who are patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your healthcare team.

Living with Cancer Chemotherapy Series
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Questions about the Clinical Center? OCCC@cc.nih.gov